

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AEC-05 OC-01 CCO-00 DRC-01

AECE-00 /052 W

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P R 101215Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6530

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T KATHMANDU 4255

LIMDIS

ATTENTION: SCI/AE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, IN

SUBJECT: URANIUM SAMPLES

REF: (A) STATE 197501; (B) KATHMANDU 4217; (C) KATHMANDU 4122

1. EMBASSY AIRPOUCHING TODAY SMALL SAMPLE OF SUBSTANCE REPORTED TO BE U-235 FOR TESTING BY AEC, IN ACCORDANCE REFTEL A. SAMPLE CONTAINED IN SMALL PLASTIC VIAL AND WRAPPED IN SEVERAL PLASTIC BAGS. POUCH NUMBER IS B 3-3148; REGISTRY NUMBER 862906; INVOICE NUMBER A-116.

2. SAMPLE WAS OBTAINED FOLLOWING TELEPHONE CALL BY THAKUR ON OCTOBER 7 REQUESTING MEETING WITH EMBASSY OFFICER. AT MEETING FOLLOWING DAY THAKUR BEGAN BY SAYING HE HAD BROUGHT SAMPLE WHICH HE THOUGHT WE MIGHT BE INTERESTED

IN TESTING. (EMBASSY OFFICER THEREFORE DID NOT NEED TO INITIATE REQUEST FOR SAMPLE. EMBASSY OFFICER REPLIED THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO TEST SAMPLE, AND THAT
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WE WOULD INFORM THAKUR OF RESULTS. OFFICER STRESSED THAT

OUR WILLINGNESS TO TEST SAMPLE SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS ANY FORM OF COMMITMENT ON OUR PART. THAKUR SAID HE UNDERSTOOD. HE ASKED NO QUESTIONS AS TO WHY WE WERE WILLING TO TEST SAMPLE, OR WHAT OUR COURSE OF ACTION MIGHT BE.

3. THAKUR SAID HE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FIVE KILOS OF ENRICHED URANIUM PER MONTH AT PRICE OF \$35,000 PER KILO, WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS A VERY FAIR PRICE. (IN EARLIER APPROACH TO EMBASSY OFFICER, THAKUR HAD SAID HE COULD DELIVER TWO TO THREE KILOS PER MONTH AT PRICE OF \$40,000 PER KILO.) HE AGAIN REPORTED THAT THE ENRICHED URANIUM WOULD COME FROM INDIA, AND SAID THAT HIS PARTNER WAS INDIAN.

4. SEVERAL TIMES DURING CONVERSATION THAKUR REFERRED TO NEED FOR SECRECY, AS HE SAID THIS WAS "LIFE OR DEATH SITUATION FOR HIM AND HIS PARTNER". HE SAID HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO SELL ENRICHED URANIUM ONLY BECAUSE HE HAD SUFFERED SERIOUS BUSINESS LOSSES AND WAS NOW LIVING HAND TO MOUTH. EMBASSY OFFICER, WHO HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY MET THAKUR, SHARES IMPRESSION REPORTED REF B (BEING REPEATED TO DEPT) THAT THAKUR IS UNSTABLE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE FUTURE ACTIONS CANNOT BE PREDICTED.

5. EMBASSY OFFICER SAID THAT HE HOPED TO BE ABLE PROVIDE RESULTS OF TESTING TO THAKUR WITHIN TWO TO THREE WEEKS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON HOW TO HANDLE OUR RESPONSE AT THAT TIME.
CARGO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 10 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
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